

plantation antigens, which will be of great interest to the specialist in the field of organ transplantation, is elaborated upon.

Finally, discussions of many of the problems in clinical transplantation, for example the transplantation of patients with Australian antigenemia, the results of cadaver transplantation for various organs including heart, liver, lung and pancreas, and the value of various types of immunosuppressive techniques—antilymphocyte serum, chemical immunosuppression as well as extracorporeal irradiation—are included. The latter part of the book is really devoted to the future of transplantation, new techniques of microsurgery and its relevance to elucidating some of the unsolved problems in transplantation as well as the role of organ preservation. The remarkable success of perfused kidneys for more than 50 hours is reported and the techniques by which this can be done on a regional basis was outlined.

Many small papers have been grouped in this book, but they are organized in a fashion whereby students with varying interests can study a section and obtain a good grasp of the part of in which they are particularly interested. The text is highly recommended because it gives the most recent status of transplantation today and what problems remain to be solved before transplantation achieves a major role in the area of clinical therapy.

The Third International Congress of the Transplantation Society was dedicated to Sir Peter Medawar, who has made many fundamental contributions to transplantation. His contributions are highlighted by Professors Brent and Woodruff.

I highly recommend this text.

SAMUEL L. KOUNTZ, M.D.

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**OUTLINE OF ORTHOPAEDICS—Seventh Edition—John Crawford Adams, M.D., F.R.C.S.,** Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, St. Mary's Hospital, London; Civil Consultant in Orthopaedic Surgery, Royal Air Force; Deputy Editor, *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*; The Williams & Wilkins Company, 428 E. Preston, Baltimore, Md. (21202), 1971. 476 pages, \$11.75.

John Crawford Adams' *Outline of Orthopaedics*, originally published in 1956, has now reached its 7th edition. The outline continues its primary objective and is intended primarily to help students. The author's endeavor to present an easily read account of our present knowledge about orthopedic surgery has been satisfactorily accomplished.

The topics of rheumatoid arthritis, gout, spina bifida and the treatment of degenerative arthritis of the hips and knee have been revised. A number of minor revisions have been made in various other chapters, however, many chapters and most illustrations have been taken over unchanged from the previous edition. The chapters on hip region, trunk and spine merit special praise. The medical illustrations are good and the improved bibliography is very adequate. Throughout the text, the author has comments following the original format, which are very welcomed when several choices of therapy are available for the care of a complex problem.

The text has followed the same original format and continues to be easily read. Because of the broad coverage, it is ideal for students in medicine, occupational therapy, physical therapy and nursing. Interns and residents of orthopedic surgery could readily use this as a basic text. The practicing physician without training in orthopedic surgery would do well to refer to this text for a rapid source of information in reference to his patients' musculo-skeletal problems.

RICHARD A. SILVER, M.D.

**ABORTION—Changing Views and Practice—R. Bruce Sloane, M.D.,** Editor. (This book is reprinted in large part from the August 1970 issue (Vol. 2, No. 3) of *Seminars in Psychiatry*). Grune & Stratton, Inc., 757 Third Ave., New York City (10017), 1971. 182 pages, \$5.75.

This book is actually, as stated by the publisher, a reprint of the August, 1970 issue of *Seminars in Psychiatry*, with updated comments on recent experiences with the New York State liberal abortion laws. This latter is unfortunately out of date by the time of presentation because of the tremendous volume of abortions in New York in the past year.

Much of the discussion is a rehash of old material. It is interesting but I found Dr. Callaghan's 1970 book, *Abortion, Law, Choice, and Morality* a far more comprehensive and valuable work.

There are some errors, and many opinions. The time is ripe for a really comprehensive review of the New York and California statistics. As an example, the statistics from Colorado discuss a few hundred cases, less than the number performed in San Francisco alone every month.

Changing views in practice and abortion are going to change very rapidly from day to day. Legal decisions expected soon from the California Supreme Court, and others, will change this even further. Your reviewer looks forward to a similar book to this, written in 1975, which will make much of the discussion presented here academic.

GEORGE K. HERZOG, JR., M.D.

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**A TEXTBOOK FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANTS—Second Edition—M. Murray Lawton, M.D.,** Administrator of the Berkeley School; Director, In-Service Training, Berkeley East Hospital, Santa Monica; and Donald F. Foy, B.S., M.S., M.P.H., Director, Department of Health Manpower, American Medical Association, Chicago, Illinois. The C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. (63103), 1971. 473 pages with 137 illustrations, \$9.85.

If the authors were starting to write this book today and wanted a maximum readership they might give it the title "Everything the Modern Medical Assistant Wants to Know, but Doesn't." They take up in detail, in successive chapters, all the knowledge and all the problems which they feel the medical assistant should have. Their objective is to provide a basic reference text for all those actively engaged in careers of "medical assisting" as well as for students in the field. (There is a certain elementary quality which reflects their desire to make it useful to students taking their initial training as medical assistants.) There is a glossary with each chapter, particularly useful to the student or to the assistant learning on the job.

The book is divided into two parts: Business Practices, and Clinical Practices. Business Practices takes up a wide variety of subjects including public relations, social and professional amenities, medical ethics and jurisprudence, processing mail, patients' records, private health insurance, the role of government in health, medical office bookkeeping, medical office economics, banking activities, payroll deductions and medical office housekeeping. This portion of the book is both detailed and comprehensive. It can be recommended highly to both students and those in the active business of assisting physicians.

The second part of the book on Clinical Practices is likewise extensive although there is some difficulty in covering the field as well as in the first part. It may be subject to criticism by physicians whose opinions vary from those who have been the authorities for the authors. The chapter titles include anatomy and physiology, common medical terminology, preparation of patients, medical and surgical office procedures, drugs and solutions, sterilization pro-

cedures for the medical office, hypodermic injection technique, technique of simple laboratory operations, routine urinalysis, hematology, medical office bacteriology, electrocardiography, medical office x-ray procedure, emergencies in the medical office.

It may be worth noting that, although this book has just been published in the year 1971, some of the details listed already require up-dating. For example: In chapter 18, page 277, on payroll deductions, the authors state that if the income tax withheld from employee wages plus the combined employee and employer F.I.C.A. taxes for a given month amount to more than \$100, the total must be deposited by the employer on or before the fifteenth day of the following month in a Federal Reserve Bank. On the other hand, specific instructions in the current form 941, the amount is \$200.00.

On the whole, this book can be recommended as a succinct volume to be either a text for the student or a reference for the medical assistant. Incidentally, it can be of service to the physician to keep in his office for his own information as well as that of his assistant.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.

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**DIAGNOSTIC APPROACHES TO PRESENTING SYNDROMES**—Jeremiah A. Barondess, M.D., Editor, Clinical Professor of Medicine, Cornell University Medical College; Attending Physician, The New York Hospital, New York. The Williams & Wilkins Company, 428 E. Preston, Baltimore, Md. (21202), 1971. 547 pages, \$21.50.

In an age in which technological advances may bewilder the physician caring for sick patients, this bedside approach to diagnosis is genuinely refreshing. Thirteen problem areas of internal medicine have been selected from the various specialty areas; for example: mitral and aortic regurgitation, fever of unknown origin, weakness, unresolving pneumonia, demineralization of bone. The clinical presentation and pathologic physiology are reviewed in detail, and a differential diagnosis is thoroughly analyzed with a special eye to clinical points suggesting specific diagnoses. Often a logical stepwise approach to diagnosis is outlined and the merit of common diagnostic techniques is weighed. The contributing authors approach their topics with varying format—some are more analytical, others more anecdotal; but all chapters seem authoritative and the bibliographies are generally extensive and current. The lead chapter on mitral regurgitation is particularly outstanding.

The House Officer, generalist, or internist who enjoys approaching diagnosis from presenting syndromes rather than from specific disease entities will find this book helpful and often truly stimulating.

W. MORRIS H. NOBLE, M.D.

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**TEXTBOOK OF MEDICAL PHYSIOLOGY—Fourth Edition**—Arthur C. Guyton, M.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics, University of Mississippi School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105), 1971. 1032 pages, \$18.50.

This book exemplifies some of the dilemmas inherent in present-day textbook writing. First, should multiple authors write on their specialties in a diversity of writing styles and without much correlation between chapters, or should one good teacher present a consistent viewpoint and writing style throughout the book? Here a single author does not prevent duplication of ideas and phrases in different parts of the book, where, for example, the principles of diffusion are presented twice, where the same general ideas of lateral inhibition are re-presented (each time in-

adequately) in the contexts of the visual, auditory, and somatosensory systems, and even where the ideas that 120 meters is longer than a football field (when mentioning axon conduction velocity) appears more than once. The style of the book is consistent, with an effort to always give examples of generalizations and to offer many figures. Unfortunately, the examples are often more difficult to understand than are the principles (as in the case of illustrating the idea of mathematic integration by the example of integrating the first derivative of a function to obtain that function), while the figures quite frequently raise more questions than they answer (by having unexplained symbols, fictitious results, confusing arrows, and other simplifications, apparently for didactic purposes)—all of which frustrate the careful reader. The whole approach seems to indicate a codification in written form of material found successful in small-group blackboard teaching; if so, the material suffers in the transfer.

A second dilemma relates to whether the material should be presented "in depth" or in a more superficial manner. This book strongly opts for the second, which in turn gives it a dogmatic mien. Although there are references at the end of each chapter, none are cited in the text, and the only names of famous investigators that creep in do so as eponyms. Small attempts are made to communicate the present status of knowledge, but these are too often inaccurate, as when excitation of postsynaptic neurons is "believed" to be due to an excitatory transmitter, soon followed by the dogmatic statement that "synaptic vesicles contain the excitatory transmitter." The overall approach leads to statements which are not harmful in context, for a superficial reader, but which will make it difficult for a motivated student to go to any other source without becoming confused: (1) The diagrams for servo-control loops are unorthodox without special benefit and with room for considerable confusion in terminology. (2) A fundamental equation of axonal conduction (the Goldman) is called by the name of a similar, but crucially different equation (the Nernst). (3) The statements of the Bell-Magendie law and of the Frank-Starling law both confuse the consequences of a law with the principle itself. (4) The infamous "all-or-none" law of axonal conduction is completely misrepresented. (5) It is implied that a monophasic action potential cannot be obtained by means of extracellular electrodes (most medical students successfully record such potentials in laboratory exercises). (6) The mechanism of action of excitatory transmitter on the postsynaptic membrane is ascribed to permeability changes at one place, to  $\text{Na}^+$  alone, at another, to both  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{K}^+$ , and at a third, to "essentially all ions."

The final and major dilemma of modern "large" textbooks of physiology is: who will read it? With the rapid decline in basic science teaching in medical education, the role of the thorough, all-inclusive, authoritative reference book is called into question. Possibly graduate students and a few medical students may want to delve into the subject more deeply than the average present-day professional student, but this book, as already indicated, is not suited for such students (and probably was not so intended). On the other hand this 1000-page textbook is probably too long (despite its efforts to be "simple") for present day cut-down quick-survey medical-physiology courses. This problem is not the fault of the author, but of our "curricular convulsions" (that is non-purposive, massive, uncoordinated movements of subject matter). How authors will find their new readerships is not clear, but it is of interest that the same author offers this material in two other versions, one 30 percent and the other 50 percent shorter.

DON L. JEWETT, M.D.